

Application No. 10/603,397

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please substitute the following paragraph for paragraph [0007] of the specification:

[0007] The earliest medical staple designs were manufactured of metal and designed to deform around the captured tissue. Examples of these staples include U.S. Patents Nos. 2,684,070, 3,273,562 and 4,485,816. Although effective, metal staples suffer from the drawback of requiring post-operative removal. As the science of medical polymers developed, staple designs incorporating bioabsorbable materials became available. The use of these bioabsorbable materials eliminated the need for post-operative removal of the staples. Examples of these staples include U.S. Patents Nos. ~~3,757,629~~, 4,317,451, 4,741,337, 4,839,130 and 4,950,258. Due to the nature of bioabsorbable polymers; however, bioabsorbable staples could not be inserted with the same deformation approach used by metal staples. In fact, bioabsorbable staples were purposefully designed to avoid any deformation requirement, as deformation was seen as a potential failure mechanism. An example of such a design is illustrated by the inwardly biased skin fastener of U.S. Patent No. 5,089,009. Thus, as the physical and chemical properties of bioabsorbable surgical staples evolved, the development of designs and insertion methods associated with bioabsorbable staples have focused on avoiding deformation of the bioabsorbable fastener.